



**Frederick County
Government
Frederick, Maryland**

News Release

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CONTACT: [Robin Santangelo](#)
Public Information Officer, 301-600-2590

County Provides Update on Snow Removal

FREDERICK, MD – Frederick County is working to recover from this weekend's historic snow storm by focusing snow removal based on long-established priorities. Snow removal is a dynamic process that takes into consideration emergency and life safety incidents, vehicles buried in the snow, and weather conditions including road and air temperatures and wind.

Road crews will continue to plow and clear roads until 10:00 p.m. or later this evening. Because temperatures are higher, snow can still be pushed and salt and chemicals can be applied to the roads. This was not the case the prior evening when temperatures were much colder and less progress could be made on frozen roadways.

Crews are working diligently on three tiers of snow removal when they are not assisting law enforcement, fire/rescue and emergency medical responses. The initial goal is to establish a single passable lane on all roads, and then to work back through the priorities to widen the roads to normal lane width.

Order of Road Clearance:

- a. **Primary roads** were reopened today following drifting from last night. The primary road clearance has been slowed by a number of cars that were abandoned during the storm on various roadways.
- b. **Secondary roads** are next to be reopened, including main neighborhood collector streets.
- c. **Neighborhood streets and courts** are the third tier of the clearance process and may require loaders or other equipment to clear the road due to the depth of the snow.

Snow removal has and will continue to take longer than during the more frequent snow events that the county has experienced with a few inches of snow. Most areas of the county received over 30 inches of snow. This higher volume of snow is much harder to move and may take a plow multiple passes along the same section of road to move the snow off the road. This makes the snow removal process much more time consuming.

The county expects to open at least one lane in all residential neighborhoods and subdivisions on Monday, January 25. It may take several days to widen out all residential streets curb to curb.

This information applies to Frederick County roads only. State, municipal, and private snow removal contractors may be following different processes.

(more)

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Winchester Hall • 12 East Church Street, Frederick, MD 21701 • 301-600-3190 • Fax 301-600-1050
www.FrederickCountyMD.gov

The county [Local State of Emergency](#) is still in effect and all residents are urged to stay off the roads. Travel remains difficult. There are no restrictions on fuel deliveries or other essential commodities or repair services.

Residents are asked to continue to be patient as highway crews clear roads and to offer help to elderly neighbors and those with disabilities.

In case of an emergency, call 911. Public safety response is coordinated with snow plows or with the National Guard as needed to ensure the safety of Frederick County residents.

The Local State of Emergency will stay in place until the Governor lifts the State of Emergency.

For additional information, visit www.FrederickCountyMD.gov and county social media sites.

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